

Serving the Afghanistan Engineer District - South

# Engineering Freedom

September/October 2010



**U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Afghanistan Engineer District - South



## ANA 205th Corps gets support facility



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Articles or photographic submissions are welcome and should arrive in PAO by the 15th of each month preceding publication. They can be mailed to the below address or they can be e-mailed. If electronically submitted, all stories should be in Word document format and all photographs should be high resolution (at least 5x7 inches and 300 dpi) and include photo caption information.

All photographs appearing herein are by the AES Public Affairs Office unless otherwise accredited.

The mission of Engineering Freedom is to support the Commander's internal communication program for AES. It also serves as the Commander's primary communication tool for accurately transmitting policies, operations, technical developments, and command philosophy to AES team members.

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## On the cover ...

Ajmal Niaz (left) and Sharon Wilkinson-Barnes (center) greet a subcontractor's safety officer at the Corps Support Battalion project site at Camp Hero in Kandahar, Afghanistan. See story, page 10. Photo by Brenda Beasley.





# Commander's message ...

## *AES Team and Families,*

**A**fter four months of leading this great organization, I wanted to share some of our team's accomplishments so that you can be as proud of your teammates and yourselves as I am. Likewise, to our families who read our magazine, I want to share what your deployed spouses, fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers, daughters and sons are accomplishing. Each of them is carrying an extremely large load of work. We are one of a handful of districts in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with a program over \$1 billion, and this year we anticipate this increasing to nearly \$1.7 billion.

What is significant about this effort is that we are doing it across all of western and southern Afghanistan with just over 225 members on our team, which is less than half the team size of any other district with a program of this magnitude. Our program focuses on three major areas - Military Construction (MILCON), Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF), and Water and Infrastructure (W&I).

The ANSF construction, which includes an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) program, focuses on building facilities — from Afghan National Army (ANA) bases to Afghan National Police (ANP) headquarters to smaller Border

Police facilities. We then operate and maintain them. The plan is to train a core of Afghan facility engineers to shadow our team until they are ready to assume the duties independently.

Some of our key players include **Jennifer Zimmerman** (deployed from Portland District) who joined the ANA team as a project management (PM) specialist and immediately started to hone her skills in the business processes to become a full-fledged PM. She volunteered to take on the responsibilities as the mine clearance PM, a much needed role that supports the ANSF program. She took on even more responsibilities as the ANA PM for Regional Command - West where she has some very challenging projects. She is admired by her customers for getting to the bottom of the issues and working through them.

**Frances Hinkley** (Mobile District), in our ANP program, quickly learned the program and was the sole PM on more than 70 ANP projects for some time until the reinforcements arrived. During this time, she was also able to work on pre-award activities. She is currently the lead PM on the Regional Training Center, a \$30 million plus project located in Kandahar.

Also, **Brian Johnson** (New Orleans District), in our Engineering Branch, has been a key component to the success of the ANSF program with his



**Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser**

“can do” attitude and PM mind set. He wanted to do the six ANA utility studies in-house versus reaching back to use an architect-engineer firm. While working on the studies, he still kept plugging away at the request for proposal packages for some much needed projects that will bring in first quarter awards. The customer is very happy with his products and is anxiously awaiting the utility study reports for which he was the lead engineer.

Our Herat Resident Officer-in-Charge **Maj. Kimberly Giles** (New Orleans District) has excelled in the role of project engineer on two highly challenging projects — the Afghan National Civil Order Police in Adraskan and the ANA Kandak in Qala-e-Naw. She has remained determined while moving these projects forward and maintaining quality and safety, while trying

to meet the customer timelines. She has even extended an additional three months to see these projects through, which further reflects her commitment.

**Scott Hughes** (Portland District), one of our construction representatives in Herat, has been working tirelessly on the ANA Kandak, Qala-e-Naw project. He is assigned multiple projects but is balancing those while spending up the five days per week in Qala-e-Naw trying to turn over this project. He has been instrumental in the ongoing push for project completion to satisfy the customer.

conducted several contractor Construction Quality Management training classes during the month of September for 29 local and third-country nationals on quality control procedures, documentation and communication with our field teams to continue to improve the quality of AES construction projects.

The MILCON program is typically inside the wire and includes constructing buildings to runways and everything in between. However, we do have several roads that are considered MILCON, and some of them are outside the wire. Our fiscal 2010 program was nearly \$600 million,

awarded. No small feat for the MILCON team!

Finally, a very important program to support the development of the region, particularly Kandahar City, is our Water and Infrastructure Program. This team is doing a broad range of projects. Task Force Breshna Barq (electric power) is our team led by **Chief Warrant Officer 5 Thomas Black** (18th Engineer Brigade, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany), **Annette Evans** (U.S. Army Garrison Adelphi Laboratory Center, Adelphi, Md.), **Kent Myers** (Kansas City District), **Chief Warrant Officer 2 Vincent Harvey** (249th Engineer Battalion [Prime Power], Fort Belvoir, Va.), and **Sgt. 1st Class Michael Mears** (249th Engineer Battalion [Prime Power]).

They are building two each 10 megawatt power plants in Kandahar City and working with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and DABS (the Afghanistan power company) to maintain a basic level of power until the Kajaki Dam comes on line with hydropower. Our team will be assisting in upgrading the transmission lines and other components of the system over the next few years to provide a stable source of power for economic development.

The Water team led by **Steve Bredthauer** (Portland District) is taking the lead with the Kandahar Planning and Response Team to organize a master plan for water and will assist in

*“What is significant ... is that we are doing it across all of western and southern Afghanistan with ... less than half the team size of any other district with a program of this magnitude.”*

Finally, the Quality Assurance Branch team of **Rodolfo Posis** (Los Angeles District), **Bill Fitzgerald** (Army Installation Management Command, Hawaii), **Jean Nicolas** (Baltimore District), **Joseph Schwing** (Baltimore District), **Brett Young** (Los Angeles District), **Sgt. 1st Class Lourdes Caamano** (2/348th Regiment, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico), and **Ross Warner** (Savannah District)

and **Randy Chong** (Walla Walla District) led the effort to award 14 projects valued at about \$150 million during his deployment from January to September 2010. Our program has nearly \$1 billion under construction, and **John Gildersleeve** (Europe District) was successful in managing 21 projects valued at over \$560 million. The fiscal year 2011 program will continue to challenge the team with over \$600 million in projects to be



synchronizing the efforts of many organizations and non-government organizations helping with water supply and distribution. **Nathan Epps** (Alaska District) has really become the backbone of many of the Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) projects as well as the flood study. He is our "go to" guy in Engineering and Construction

Division as the demands for CERP projects increase this fall.

There are always too many people doing great work to recognize everyone, but in each issue I plan to highlight the efforts of a sample of our teammates and share all the things we are doing around the District. We'll also highlight and focus on one of

our field offices in each issue as well. This one features the Helmand Area Office and its accomplishments. Thank you all for being part of our team during one of the most significant years of Operation Enduring Freedom. We are providing critical support, and I am proud to serve with each of you.

AES Teamwork! 🇺🇸

## *Command Sergeant Major's message ...*

*Happy New Year (fiscally speaking),*

**T**he Afghanistan Engineer District - South has made great strides in the last couple of months. We had a very good year-end closeout, and a good year overall, at over a billion dollars of construction awarded. We are now faced with the challenges of a new fiscal year and what that entails.

The compound buildup continues and is going very well. We now have walls shooting up, floors being placed, temporary and permanent relocatable buildings being constructed, parking lot changes, and much more to come with the expansion of the District. The quality of life for Corps of Engineers employees on Kandahar Airfield will continue to rise as facilities are completed.

In the field, we are also concerned with getting the things you need to accomplish the mission and better your quality of life. We have awarded several contracts for improvements to area and resident offices, and we are sending vehicles and supplies out more frequently than before.

Projects keep trudging on all over the south; we are making progress at all locations - some places more so than others, but making progress



**Command Sergeant Major Rickie Virgil**

nonetheless. Get ready for the big shift from Military Construction to Afghan National Security Forces facilities and then to operations and maintenance projects. The plan is being formed as we keep moving forward to finish the current construction, which is all part of the United States exit strategy.

On another note, I would like to personally thank every Soldier and Civilian working at AES for their efforts during the last few months to assist the command team in building the District to what we see today.

I would ask that you continue to strive to make this the best District, not only in Afghanistan but in the Middle East and possibly the world. I am enjoying my time here and believe that our command is going to get better as time goes on.

Finally, we are heading into the holiday season, which can be very stressful in this kind of environment. Watch your buddy and those around you. Be cognizant and considerate of others, and most of all, let's make this a great holiday season and a great time in our lives. We have an opportunity to make a difference in the country of Afghanistan and in the peoples' lives here.

Keep up the awesome work, and remember to better your foxhole every day. 🇺🇸



Afghan National Policemen gather for the ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of their new headquarters building at Spin Boldak.

# Police open doors to new headquarters at Spin Boldak

Story and Photos by Mark Abueg, Public Affairs Officer,  
579th Engineer Detachment (FEST-M)

Police officers are getting trained in Afghanistan every day with a focus on reform at the district level and below to increase operational capabilities and survivability.

And they're getting better day by day.

News reports indicate that a force of about 3,000 uniformed policemen have been described as pursuing the Taliban so relentlessly that Spin Boldak has become the safest and most prosperous district in southern Afghanistan.

These officers now have a

new place to call home.

The Afghan National Police (ANP) opened its new Uniformed Police Spin Boldak District headquarters here Sept. 21, as part of the counterinsurgency (COIN) efforts to provide security and stability to Afghanistan. The facility represents the capabilities and professionalism of the ANP with its allies.

"Symbolically, it's about bringing all these working elements together," said Col. Anthony Funkhouser, commander of the Afghanistan

Engineer District - South (AES), whose responsibility it was to design and construct the ANP headquarters building. "From the Afghan National Police to the people of Spin Boldak to coalition partners, it's about creating a secured environment. I'm proud for the Corps of Engineers to be able to play a small part in providing this new facility to the Afghan National Police."

The new headquarters, which cost about \$883,000, provides the ANP with office space, a detention facility, and quarters for the police





The new Afghan National Police headquarters in Spin Boldak officially opened Sept. 21. Inset photo: Brig. Gen. Mirwais, commander of the Afghan National Police, Spin Boldak District, cuts the ribbon to officially open the new ANP headquarters.



Left to right: Brig. Gen. Mirwais, commander of Afghan National Police, Spin Boldak District; Abdul Ghani, district governor of Spin Boldak; and Col. James D. Edwards, commander of the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, listen to speeches given during the opening ceremony for the ANP headquarters in Spin Boldak.

officers, said Michael Chang, project manager for the Afghan National Security Forces projects.

“This modern facility headquarters provides a little bit of everything for the ANP,” said Chang. “The layout is ergonomic in terms of power structures placement, sewage layout, and overall landscape design. More importantly, we want the Spin Boldak community to know the police headquarters was built by an Afghan company and is established to maintain peace to ensure prosperity in Afghanistan.”

AES personnel were able to mentor and advise the Afghan laborers, engineers and project



**A village elder listens to residents of Spin Boldak during the opening of an Afghan National Police headquarters there.**

managers on how to construct the Spin Boldak headquarters.

The building also serves a Corps' initiative to standardize Afghanistan's police district headquarters by adapting it to the layout of the proposed site.

"Basically, it doesn't matter if it's Spin Boldak," said Chang. "If you go to Kabul or


Herat or any other district or province within Afghanistan, you will find similar district headquarters layouts."

ANP headquarters facilities are designed to enable Afghan police districts to take on greater responsibilities and to increase the size of their security force. ANP capacity

development continues to grow and is on track to reach the target ceiling set of about 109,000 by October 2010 and 134,000 by October 2011, according to NATO documents.

The security force infrastructure helps bridge the gap between Afghan residents and the police force by showing that the ANP is committed to providing security to the region.

"We need to gain the trust of the people during operations and defeat the insurgents and enemy of this country," said Maj. Gen. Gul Ali, commander of the Afghan Border Police, Spin Boldak District.

As Coalition Forces continue to train new recruits to become uniformed police officers, the ANP will transition to fully keeping the peace in Afghanistan. 



**Attendees gather for refreshments following the ceremony.**



# Two Herat Province ANP facilities get completed

By Nabil Abourialy, Resident Engineer, Shindand-Farah

**R**ibbon-cutting ceremonies held Aug. 25 in Karokh and Aug. 29 in Zendajan celebrated completion of two Afghanistan National Police (ANP) Uniformed Police District headquarters facilities. Officials from the Herat Area Office of the Afghanistan Engineer District - South turned over the keys to the generals of each facility during the events.

Karokh and Zendajan are both located in the Herat Province. The ceremonies were attended by ANP leaders, Afghanistan's Ministry of Interior, Corps officials and the contractor — Omran Consulting Construction and Engineering Company.

An ANP station is designed and constructed to support 60 people. Each compound has a one-story multi-purpose police security facility which includes a dining facility,




Courtesy Photo

**Ribbon-cutting event for the ANP District Headquarters in Karokh.**

berthing areas, offices and conference areas, an armory, and jail cells. They also have force protection structures, an electrical system, a plumbing and sewage system, and a water delivery system.

These two projects mark another milestone in the Corps' crucial role in international efforts to establish a secure and stable environment in Afghanistan while promoting reconstruction and infrastructure development.

AES's more than 200 U.S. Military and Civilian team members manage programs and projects that support a full spectrum of regional activities for U.S. Forces - Afghanistan, International Security Assistance Force, Regional Commands South, Southwest and West, U.S. Agency for International Development, and other organizations operating in Afghanistan. 



Courtesy Photo

**Herat Area Officer-in-Charge Lt. Col. Kenneth Safe (center) and Herat Resident Office Project Engineer Torrey Leinen (right) at the ribbon-cutting in Zendajan.**



# ANA 205th Corps gets support facility

Story and photos by Brenda Beasley

Quality with little required maintenance is the focus for a Corps Support Battalion (CSB) and related support facilities being built for the Afghanistan National Army, 205th Corps, at Camp Hero in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Scheduled for completion in early 2011, the \$26 million facility includes a morale, welfare, and recreation building, a dining facility, four large vehicle maintenance buildings, a communications and armament repair building, a ten-bay wash rack, office buildings, barracks and other utilities to care for 1,600 Soldiers.

"The CSB will be the central vehicle maintenance and repair facility for the entire ANA 205th Corps," said Richard S. Jamar, a lead project engineer at the Kandahar Vicinity Resident Office (KVRO).

The 110-acre facility will enable the ANA Soldiers to care for thousands of military vehicles located within three large provinces.

All electricity for this project is being run underground because it's operationally safer, especially for first time drivers. "With no electrical poles in the way, it'll make it much safer for drivers who are learning the rules of the road for the first time," said Jamar.







2

3

4

1. A worker measures and cuts ceiling track for suspended ceilings. 2. Workers perform hand excavation of the building foundation using picks. 3. A final layer of concrete plaster gets added around the new door frame. 4. Using a common construction technique in Afghanistan, workers apply concrete plaster to 3-D wall panels. 5. KVRO Project Engineer Ajmal Niaz (left) visits with the contractor's safety officer (center) and civil works inspector (right). KVRO's officer in charge Maj. Andrew Olson (second from right) approaches. Olson is a project engineer deployed from USACE's Europe District.



Instead of aesthetically pleasing, the facility is being constructed so that very little maintenance will be needed. It'll be a solid, robust shop that fits Afghanistan's austere climate.

"We are more concerned that the final structure is a good functional quality," said Jamar.

Although it's hard to retrain cultural processes, Jamar continues to find ways to communicate safe construction practices to workers who haven't lived outside of war. Considering the size of this project, the Afghan contractor has had good safety procedures in place.

"It's very rewarding to be able to clearly communicate a little bit of technology transfer

to the Afghan people," he added.

However, it's still not easy to change the Afghan perspective regarding safety. "Their level of tolerance for personal safety is diminished," said Ajmal Niaz, a project engineer with the KVRO. "They say, 'Oh, you're worried about me falling? What about the bullets flying around my head?'"

A civil engineer deployed from the Metro West Area Office of the Corps' New York District, Niaz works to ensure the contractor is safely building the facility according to the construction specifications.

Born in Kabul, Afghanistan, Niaz moved to the United States at the age of six with his Diplomat father. "It's been 20 years since anyone in my immediate family has been back



In the foreground, workers install forms for a dining facility water-grease separator. Scaffold removal after the final wall plastering is seen in the background.





The Corps Support Battalion civil works inspector (left) and the site superintendent (second from left) discuss a construction technique with KVRO's Project Engineer Ajmal Niaz and Officer-in-Charge Maj. Andrew Olson.



Worker lays rebar for a concrete slab pour.

to Afghanistan," said Niaz. "It's surreal when I meet people who knew my family."

Niaz's ability to speak English, Dari, and Pashto is sometimes a help and sometimes a hindrance in his job as a project engineer here. In Afghanistan's culture, more respect is shown for doctors and engineers than for linguists, so he's not always shown very much respect.

"At first they think I'm a translator," said Niaz. "I introduce myself as Engineer Ajmal. Once they realize I'm an engineer, the respect level goes up."

By developing an open dialog with the Afghan workers, Niaz' linguistic and engineer skills are keeping the project's focus on being built as a functional quality product requiring little maintenance. 🇦🇫



A photograph showing a long line of military trucks parked in a row, waiting to enter a facility. The focus is on the tires and lower parts of the trucks, which are parked on a paved surface. The trucks are dark-colored, and the scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

# AES turns over milestone MILCON project

Story by Christine Hess and photos courtesy of ISAF Public Affairs

Trucks line up awaiting entrance to KAF.



**T**he Afghanistan Engineer District - South (AES), together with Col. Henk Bank, Chief of Staff for Commander, Kandahar Airfield, participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 19 as part of the turnover for Entry Control Point (ECP) 5, on Kandahar Airfield (KAF).

Valued at more than \$8 million, this military construction (MILCON) project will enhance base operations in many ways, including delivery of supplies and materials, as well as more efficient egress, all in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Corps' senior leadership in attendance included District Commander Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser, District Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Martha E. Kiene, Command Sergeant Major Rickie Virgil, Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management Michael Scarano, and Engineering and Construction Chief John Adams.

"ECP 5 is a new chapter in the history of KAF," said Funkhouser. "This project will greatly support the operating ability of KAF, particularly as the base expands. ECP 5 is also a milestone project for AES, as it is the first MILCON project the district is turning over."

"Being on a NATO base with multi-nation users and operators makes for a very unique condition," said Kiene. "The Corps has had to maintain a balance in meeting customer



**Col. Anthony Funkhouser (left) and Command Sergeant Major Rickie Virgil (center) look on as Col. Henk Bank (right) prepares to cut the ribbon.**

expectations, satisfying user needs, and staying within the parameters of MILCON guidelines."

Funkhouser added, "In addition to serving the needs of the mission and base operations, ECP 5 is a symbol of collaboration. It is collaboration among our personnel, both Military and Civilian, our COMKAF (Commander, Kandahar Airfield) partners, the contractor for this project, METAG İnşaat Ticaret A.Ş., and their crew who worked hard to make this project a reality. We extend both our thanks and our congratulations to all those involved with this project."



**Mine clearance vehicle departs KAF.**

# AES Team Helmand Area Office

By Lt. Col. Ronald A. Bahr

**T**he Helmand Area Office is located on Camp Shorabak, an Afghan National Army (ANA) camp, in the Helmand Province. Camp Shorabak is adjacent to Camp Leatherneck (which is used by U.S. Marines) and Camp Bastion (which is used by the United Kingdom).

The Helmand Area Office began as the Lashkar Gah Resident Office when there was only one engineer district in Afghanistan. The office was originally established on the Special Forces compound that was in Helmand Province before Camp Shorabak was built. Since that time, the office has overseen the building of Camp Shorabak to its present state and has seen the growth of Camps Bastion and Leatherneck in the last 36 months. In the next 18 months, the Helmand Area Office, in conjunction with the



Courtesy Photo

**Helmand and Tombstone team members. Front row: Jeffrey H. Johnson, Charles L. Bulla, Michelle M. Bannister, Gerald Carden, and Earl D. Wagner. Second row: Lt. Col. Ronald A. Bahr, Sgt. Ryan Crouch, Derland M. Ellison, Roy P. Brase, and Sgt. Paul Hastings.**

Tombstone Resident Office, will oversee construction on Camp Shorabak that will double the size of the ANA garrison.

There are three resident offices that the area office is responsible for: the Tombstone Resident Office, also located on Camp Shorabak; the Dwyer Resident Office located on Camp Dwyer near Garm Ser; and the Delaram Resident Office that will be located on Forward Operating Base Delaram near the town of Del Aram. The resident offices are responsible for the U.S. military and Afghan National Security Forces construction projects in their geographic locations. The offices combined have about \$200 million worth of projects underway and another \$150 million that will be awarded in the next four to

six months.

The personnel who work at the various offices are our greatest asset. The Military and Civilian team members, along with the local nationals, complement each other. Their diverse backgrounds and experiences ensure that the office is able to complete all assigned tasks and workloads.

The tough part is saying goodbye to our valuable team members. In the past two months, we have said goodbye to Lt. Col. Steve Unfried, Frank Pierce, Gerald Carden, Sgt. Paul Hastings, Sgt. Ryan Crouch, Bobby Duncan, Derland Ellison, Greg Stigall, and Wilfredo Anderson. These folks have made significant contributions and improved their areas of responsibility greatly. They will be missed.



Courtesy Photo

**Sgt. Paul Hastings receives an end-of-tour award from Lt. Col. Ron Bahr.**





Courtesy Photo

**The completed District Headquarters Police Station at Nahri Saraj.**

New members of the team are arriving regularly. Recent additions include, Kristen Long (real estate), Jereme Degarlais (real estate), Pat Mulkey

(Operations and Maintenance), Han Pham (information technology), and myself as the Area Officer in Charge. All of the Helmand

Area Office personnel are committed to partnering with our local counterparts, improving the camps in our area, and fostering beneficial relationships with U.S. and coalition forces. We have provided value and opportunity to the Afghans in the Helmand and Nimroz Provinces by completing police stations, building Afghan Army camps, hiring local Afghan engineers as quality assurance representatives, and beginning projects such as road building within the Helmand Province. We look forward to completing all the projects within our area of responsibility to improve the capabilities of our Afghan partners. 🇦🇫

## AES opens new temporary quarters

By Joan Kibler

**T**he Afghanistan Engineer District - South officially opened its new temporary quarters Oct. 22, providing immediate billeting space for 20 people.

According to project manager Bill Graney, five additional relocatable buildings will be erected to house 10 more people. Most people on the AES compound at Kandahar Airfield (KAF) share billets.

Graney said the temporary quarters will help “bridge the gap” until construction is complete in February 2011 on two buildings that will provide 96 new individual billeting rooms. The district will award another contract for billeting, which will provide another 48 lodging spaces.

New billets aren’t the only facilities under construction.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Commander Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser presented awards to people responsible for getting contracts awarded for the design and construction of two new office buildings in the headquarters compound and the South Park Area Office also located on KAF, as well as the temporary billeting.

These construction contracts are already contributing to improved morale, Graney said, and the new facilities are “anticipated to be a plus



Photo by Brenda Beasley

**AES Commander Col. Anthony C. Funkhouser (far right) cuts the ribbon to open the new AES temporary quarters, accompanied by the team members who helped make the project a reality. Left to Right: Fortunato (Sonny) N. Sapida, deputy chief, Contracting Division; Bill Graney, project manager; James M. Killion, construction representative; Air Force Maj. Anthony Riley, Officer in Charge, Kandahar Airfield Area Office; and Norma J. Dean, Chief, Resource Management.**

for future recruiting efforts in the District.” He said getting the additional facilities will “assist in enabling the District to successfully accomplish its \$1.7 billion workload in fiscal 2011.” 🇦🇫



# Afghanistan Safety 101

by Cedric J. Pelt, safety officer

## **"Do it Safe" ... the slogan for AES's Safety Promotion**

The Safety and Occupational Health Office presented safety incentive items Sept. 20 to District team members as

part of the commander's safety promotion. Team members received T-shirts, a mug, a pen, and a foam cooler for their cold beverages with the safety slogan, "Do It Safe."

Safety incentive items are given to team members to help encourage them to be proactive in their personal

safety awareness. It is the commander's goal to ensure that everyone understands their responsibilities in this environment and that we all look out for the safety of our fellow coworkers. In this regard, we are all safety officers! 🇺🇸



Air Force Staff  
Sgt. Laura Burton

Safety Officer Cedric Pelt (left) hands  
safety incentives to Chad Richards (right).

Left to right: Lydia Manning, Rick Ferguson, Avril (Mimi) Jones,  
and Catherine Dewar.



# News briefs

## EAC seeking new members

*From Laurel Stevens*

The AES Employee Activity Committee (EAC) needs your help and great ideas. With the turnover of personnel, the EAC has had the core group of initial members depart. This has created opportunities for new people coming in to get involved in making a difference. We are looking for volunteers to assist in ensuring that the quality of life continues to improve, that maintenance issues are addressed, and that new entertainment and other activities are created for our fellow AES employees.

If you are interested in joining or need more information, contact [Laurel.A.Stevens@usace.army.mil](mailto:Laurel.A.Stevens@usace.army.mil).

## AES Blanket

*From Laurel Stevens*

Congratulations to Breeanna Witt and Tamera Arnold, both from Engineering and Construction Division, for submitting the winning designs in the AES blanket design contest. The Judging Committee

took some liberties by combining the two most voted for designs to create the AES blanket design. Breeanna and Tamera will be presented with a complementary blanket as their prize for submitting the winning designs. Sponsored by the EAC as a fundraiser, the blanket is on sale now for advance orders. Contact [Norma.J.Dean@usace.army.mil](mailto:Norma.J.Dean@usace.army.mil).

Don't wait until you are ready to redeploy to order your AES Keepsake. The first order was submitted Nov. 12. The first shipment should arrive by mid-January.

## Competitive Temporary Promotion

*From Gloria Dyson*

When an employee is here on a competitive temporary promotion and goes off AES roles, the competitive temporary promotion also ends. If the employee is going on Leave Between Taskers (LBT) or taking a new tour and will return to AES on a new tasker, the employee will need to reapply for the position, make a new referral list, receive consideration with all other qualified applicants, be selected, and then

receive an official job offer from the stateside Civilian Personnel Advisory Center before leaving Afghanistan to return at a higher grade than their permanent stateside position.

This is why it is very important for employees and managers to start the LBT or new tour request process early — a minimum of 90 days prior to your current tour end date.

Some employees are here on positions that are no longer advertised due to elimination of old vacancy announcements. LBT or new tour requests will now be submitted for the employee's permanent stateside grade not the in-theater promoted grade.

If you need additional information, please contact [TAS.J1@usace.army.mil](mailto:TAS.J1@usace.army.mil).

## Federal benefits open season

*From Gloria Dyson*

Federal benefits open season begins Monday, Nov. 8, and runs through midnight on Monday, Dec. 13.

Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB): Changes to your FEHB enrollment must be made through the ABC-C website: [www.abc.army.mil](http://www.abc.army.mil). Information on 2011 premiums is available at <http://opm.gov/insure/health/rates/index.asp>.

Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP): Your coverage automatically continues if you are currently enrolled. Open season information is available at <https://www.benefeds.com>.

Flexible Spending Account (FSAFEDS): If you are currently participating in FSA, you must re-enroll for 2011. Enrollment information for 2011 is available at <https://www.fsafeds.com>.



Tamara Arnold (left) and Breeanna Witt (right).



# ON THE MOVE

## Moving in



Connie Adams



John Adams



Nellie Akbarpour



Patrick Anderson



Charles Anthony



Michael Bailey



Tom Baker



Raquel Blankenhorn



Rita Boccieri



Stephen Bredthauer



Evan Carter



Michael Chang



Lynda Christensen



Brian Combs



Peter Debski



Jereme Degarlais



Scott Doeden



George Flickner



Alden Foote



Jason Foust



Steve Franz



Robert Garcia



Deborah Gates



Darrell Gay



James Gehle



Marco Goodman



William Graney



Sterlin Hill



Shelby Jackson



Chad Jungman



Janelle Kaufold



Joan Kibler



Brian Kirchner



Nicholas Konovodoff



Eric Lambert



Oscar Lopez



Lydia Manning



Donna Moore



Jim Murray



Jean Nicolas



Phillip Payne



SSG Richard Polanco



Nelson Reyes



Victor Ross



Aaron Sandine



Philip Schmitt



Charles Sellmeyer



Harry Shatto



Muneer Shetab



Robert Starling



Scott Stegmann



James Stephens



SPC Erika Stormont



Scott Swanson



John Terry



Steven Wilson



Brian Zickefoose

## Moving out

SSGT Bryan Alfaro  
Wilfredo Anderson  
Steve Barg  
Gary Birge  
Gerald Carden  
Theodore Champine  
MAJ Jorge Chen  
Randal Chong  
Staci Claunch  
Brian Deem  
Beverly Deese  
Catherine Dewar

Michael Doty  
Robert Duncan  
Derland Ellison  
John Eugino  
SGT Tommy Hamilton  
Tracy Haywood  
Guy Kuroiwa  
Robert Marshall  
Patrick McKevitt  
Rick Mers  
Sharon Mers  
John Mitzel

Jose Morales  
Kenneth Morris  
Kent Myers  
Catherine Nipper  
Lourdes Pastrana  
Frank Pierce  
Sam Safweh  
Brett Sewell  
MAJ Thomas Snow  
Gregory Stigall  
Steve Unfreid  
Roger Vogler  
Lindsey Wetzel  
C.J. Winand  
Linda Wolfe  
Jim Wolfe